

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed July 30, 2005. The Examiner is thanked for his thorough examination of the subject application. Herein, claims 1-9, 17-19, and 21-24 have been amended. Claim 20 has been cancelled without prejudice.

In the Office Action, claims 10-16 and 25-27 were allowed. Claims 5-9, 18-19 and 22-24 were objected to and considered to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1-4, 17 and 20-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Claims 10-16 and 25-27 have been allowed. Since no additional amendments have been made to claims 10-16 and 25-27, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 10-16 and 25-27 are still in condition for allowance.

Allowable Claims

Claims 5-9, 18-19 and 22-24 were objected, but considered to contain allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended these claims, and maintain that these claims still contain allowable subject matter. Hence, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5-9, 18-19 and 22-24 remain in condition for allowance independent of the allowability of independent claims 1 and 17.

Claim Objection

Claim 17 was objected to due to an alleged informality. Claim 17 has been amended to correct the informality and to include limitations set forth in original claim 20. Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding objection be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

A. CLAIMS 1 & 3-4

Claims 1 and 3-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hashimoto (2003/0223190 A1). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because a *prima facie* case of anticipation cannot be established based on the amendment set forth above.

As the Examiner is aware, to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Vergegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the...claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ 2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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